

Partnership Forum Newsletter

No. 9

September 2011

Sustainable Funding and Contracting with the Not-For-Profit Sector

Component I of the funding and contracting reforms – a 15% across the board price adjustment for eligible contracts – continues to be rolled out. For more than 90% of eligible contracts, the price adjustment has been made and additional funding is flowing.

At its meeting on 12 August 2011, the Partnership Forum established a Partnership Forum Capacity Building Working Group comprising equal numbers of Public and not-for-profit (NFP) sector representatives. The Working Group is meeting fortnightly to consider immediate priorities for action and to develop a Capacity Building Implementation Plan for the Forum's consideration.

The Funding and Contracting Services (FaCS) Unit in the Department of Finance, continues to deliver a range of workshops, training and support on the new *Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy* and associated procurement reform across both public and NFP sectors. Further information on the role of the FaCS Unit, FAQs and the latest bulletin can be found on Department of Finance's website at: <http://www.finance.wa.gov.au/cms/content.aspx?id=12603>

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Social Innovation Grants

The Social Innovation Grants (SIGs) Program aims to contribute significantly to establishing a culture of innovation in human services delivery. Applications for the second round of SIGs have now closed. Applications will be assessed by an independent selection panel established by the Partnership Forum. The panel members for the current funding round are Professor Paul Flatau, Dr Sue Van Leeuwen, Robyn Martin, Dr Geoff Smith and Jenni Perkins.

Announcements regarding the current funding round are expected to occur in October 2011, with the final grant round for 2011 set to close 30 September. The outcomes of this round will be advised in late December. There is over \$3 million in remaining funds available for 2011/12.

The SIGs Program is administered by the Department for Communities, and applications can be submitted at any time. For SIGs guidelines and application forms: <http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/grantsandfunding/Grants/SocialInnovation/Pages/default.aspx>

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Self Directed Service Design

A Forum – *My Life My Way: Self Directed Supports in Western Australia* – was held on 10 August 2011. Presentations were given by people involved with self directed service design and delivery, followed by a World Cafe discussion.

The Forum generated a lot of discussion and interest in self directed service design among people and consumer groups. The Forum outcomes will be sent to participants and available on the DPC website at: <http://dpc.web.dpc.wa.gov.au/Publications/EconomicAuditReport/Pages/SelfDirectedServiceDesign.aspx>

A DVD containing personal stories from self directed service users will be launched on Wednesday 28 September. The launch will be attended by members of the Partnership Forum and individuals who contributed to the design and coordination of the forum. The DVD will be accessible online and hard copies can be distributed on request.

The Self Directed Services Reference Group will meet in November to progress the actions arising from the Forum and consider next steps.

The Disability Services Commission (DSC), has funded National Disability Services (NDS WA) to administer Service Quality Improvement Grants: Self Directed Supports and Services. The grants will assist DSC-funded disability sector organisations in WA to implement self directed initiatives in an innovative way. Grant guidelines and application forms can be accessed at the NDS website at:

<http://www.nds.org.au/projects/article/107>

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Social Enterprise

The UWA Centre for Social Impact presented a paper on Social Enterprise to the Partnership Forum at its 12 August 2011 meeting. The key discussion focused on the definition of social enterprise, which would determine the eligibility criteria for the Fund.

Further development of the Social Enterprise Fund is currently being progressed by the Secretariat, which is preparing a specification for the Fund for consideration by the Partnership Forum. Applications for the Fund will open in January 2012.

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Community Sector Pre-Brief

On 11 August 2011 the Partnership Forum hosted a Pre-Brief for the community sector. Professor Peter Shergold, Chair of the Partnership Forum was a guest speaker.

The Pre-Brief provided an opportunity for the community sector to identify key issues in their sector for consideration by the Partnership Forum in 2011-12. The issues identified at the Pre-Brief informed discussion during the planning workshop at the Partnership Forum's 12 August meeting.

Key identified at the Pre-Brief included:

1. The NFP sector could be supported by further investment in resources, education and governance;
2. education, guidelines and mentoring may assist inconsistent levels of governance in the sector;
3. the public and community sectors should employ strategies to engage with consumers, carers and their families;
4. efficient delivery and management of information are key to reducing the administration burden;
5. regional hubs, greater access to communication tools and information, and peer support could assist small and isolated organisations.

Developing Policy Capacity

At its August meeting, the Partnership Forum agreed to focus on policy collaboration and capacity issues in 2011/12. A small group of Partnership Forum members will explore how both sectors can work collaboratively in policy development processes

related to the *Delivering Community Services in Partnership (DCSP) Policy*. It is anticipated that the group will present its findings to the Partnership Forum at its December meeting, providing direction for further work in 2012.

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Partnership Forum

The next meeting of the Partnership Forum will be held on 15 December 2011.

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Upcoming Events

Funding and Contracting Services Unit, (FaCS) Department of Finance:

Forthcoming activities include a regional visit to Kununurra and agency specific workshops at the Mental Health Commission and the Department of Housing. The FaCS Unit is also working with Peak Bodies to develop a range of workshops for NFP organisations, topics may include understanding the tender process and costing their services.

The FaCS Unit is keen for feedback on its education and training program. To convey your interest in upcoming education and training events relating to the *DCSP Policy* or to request a specific training program, please email the team at the address below with the following information:

- The name of your organisation or government agency
- Your location
- The names and roles of interested participants (or number of participants interested)
- Topics of interest
- Your contact details (email and phone contact information)

e: fundingandcontracting@finance.wa.gov.au